

**OVERVIEW**

Environmental Accessibility Adaptations are those necessary physical adaptations made to the home to ensure the health and welfare of the recipient, or enable the recipient to function with greater independence in the home. Without these necessary adaptations, the recipient would require institutionalization. These services must be provided in accordance with state and local laws governing licensure and/or certification.

These services must also be provided in accordance with the Medicaid regulations and the recipient's approved plan of care (POC).

Adaptations may be applied to rental or leased property with written approval of the landlord and approval of the OAAS regional office.

The adaptation(s), whether from an original claim, a corrected claim, a re-submit or revised POC or claim, must be accepted, fully delivered, installed, and operational in the current POC year that it was approved.

**DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES**

Environmental Accessibility Adaptations include the following:

- Ramps
  - portable
  - fixed
- Lifts
  - porch
  - stair
  - hydraulic
  - manual
  - other electronic
- Modifications to bathroom facilities
  - roll-shower
  - sink
  - bathtub
  - toilet
  - plumbing

- Additions to bathroom facilities
  - roll shower
  - water faucet control
  - floor urinal
  - bidet
  - turnaround space
- Specialized accessibility/safety adaptations/additions
  - door widening
  - electrical wiring
  - grab bars
  - handrails
  - automatic door opener/doorbell
  - voice activated, light activated, motion activated and electronic devices
  - fire safety adaptations
  - medically necessary air filtering device\*
  - medically necessary heating/cooling adaptations\*
  - other modifications to the home necessary for medical or personal safety

**\*A doctor's statement concerning medical necessity for air filtering devices and heating/cooling adaptations is required. The support coordinator must obtain such documentation prior to requesting approval from the OAAS regional office. The support coordinator must maintain the documentation in the recipient's records.**

## **STANDARDS**

All providers must meet all state and/or local requirements for licensure or certification (such as building contractors, plumbers, electricians, or engineers). Providers must enroll as a Medicaid Environmental Modifications provider, be listed on the Freedom of Choice (FOC) form and file claims in accordance with established Medicaid guidelines.

All modifications, adaptations, additions or repairs must be made in accordance with all local and state housing and building codes, and must meet ADA requirements.

## **EXCLUSIONS**

This service is not intended to cover basic construction costs. For example, in a new home, a bathroom is already part of the building costs and waiver funds can be used to cover the difference between constructing a bathroom and building an accessible or modified bathroom.

The following adaptations are not included in this service:

- General house repairs
- Flooring (carpet, wood, vinyl, tile, stone, marble, etc.)
- Interior/exterior walls not directly affected by an adaptation
- Lighting or light fixtures that are for non-medical use
- Furniture
- Vehicle adaptations
- Roofing, initial or repairs. This also includes covered ramps, walkways, parking areas, etc.
- Exterior fences or repairs made to any such structure
- Motion detector or alarm systems for security, fire, etc.
- Fire sprinklers, extinguishers, hoses, etc.
- Smoke, fire and carbon monoxide detectors
- Interior/exterior non-portable oxygen sites
- Replacement of toilets, septic system, cabinets, sinks, counter tops, faucets, windows, electrical or telephone wiring or fixtures when not affected by an adaptation, not part of the installation process or not one of the pieces of medical equipment being installed
- Appliances (washer, dryer, stove, dishwasher, vacuum cleaner, etc.)
- Any service covered by Title XIX (Medicaid State Plan services)
- Any equipment or supply covered by Title XIX (Medicaid Durable Medical Equipment program)

Only those adaptations or improvements not available as a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) device may be authorized. Some lifts, filters, etc., may be covered as a DME item. The support coordinator must first explore the possibility of these items being covered through the DME program by assisting the recipient in making a prior authorization request with a DME provider.

**SERVICE LIMITS**

There is a maximum lifetime limit per recipient as specified on the Elderly and Disabled Adult Waiver Services Procedure Codes/Rates chart. (See Appendix A for a copy of this form.) Services must be approved by the OAAS regional office and be prior authorized. Expenditures are cumulative and claims that exceed the maximum lifetime limit will be denied. Should the recipient require services that exceed the lifetime limit, the support coordinator shall refer the recipient to additional community resources, including but not limited to DME suppliers, Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Council on Aging, Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA), and natural supports. It is strictly prohibited for the provider to charge the recipient an additional amount in excess of the prior approved amount for completion of the job.

**PROCEDURE**

It is the responsibility of the support coordinator to include Environmental Accessibility Adaptation in the POC if this service is needed and requested by the recipient.

The support coordinator shall:

- Check other resources to see if the requested adaptation(s) are available.
- Check for availability of funds (with respect to lifetime limit).
- Offer the recipient freedom of choice of Environmental Accessibility Adaptation providers.
- Obtain a written bid for the requested adaptation from the chosen provider which includes the following:
  - a detailed itemized list of services and materials needed to complete the job,
  - a detailed diagram of the job to be performed, and
  - the cost of those services and materials with a price guarantee of at least 90 days.
- Complete Section 1 of the "Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Job Completion Form" and sign in the appropriate space.
- Explain the information on the "Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Job Completion Form" to the participant and have him/her sign form in appropriate space.
- Obtain the signature of the provider.

- Submit the “Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Job Completion Form” and all other required documentation to the OAAS regional office. (See Appendix B for a copy of this form.)

The OAAS regional office shall approve or deny the request.

- If the request is denied, the OAAS regional office shall notify the support coordinator.
- If the request is incomplete, the OAAS regional office shall return the appropriate documents to the support coordinator and request that ALL necessary documents be returned to OAAS regional office.
- If the request is approved, the OAAS regional office will complete Section 2 of the “Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Job Completion Form” and forward it to the support coordinator.

The support coordinator shall review the “Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Job Completion Form” with the recipient to assure that all information is correct and forward the form to the provider.

The provider shall:

- Complete the adaptation job for the recipient in accordance with the prior approved agreement as described in Section 2 of the “Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Job Completion Form.”
- Complete Section 3 of the “Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Job Completion Form” and forward it back to the support coordinator.

The support coordinator shall within 10 working days of the actual job completion:

- Inspect the actual work at the recipient’s residence to assure that the job was performed according to the agreement.
  - If both the recipient and the support coordinator agree that the job has been completed according to the agreement, Section 4 of the “Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Job Completion Form” shall be completed accordingly and signed by both the recipient and the support coordinator.
  - If both the recipient and support coordinator agree that the job has not been completed according to the agreement, the support coordinator shall negotiate a resolution with the provider prior to completing Section 4 of the “Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Job Completion Form.” If a resolution cannot be reached, the support coordinator shall refer the matter to the OAAS regional office for review and a final determination.

- If the support coordinator but not the recipient is satisfied that the job has been completed according to the agreement, the support coordinator shall complete Section 4 of the “Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Job Completion Form” without the recipient’s signature and indicate that the recipient would not sign.
- Forward the “Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Job Completion Form” and/or applicable documentation as to the acceptance status of the job to the OAAS regional office.

The OAAS regional office shall review the documentation and make a determination as to whether or not to give final approval of the job.

- If it is determined that the job was completed according to the agreement, whether or not the recipient is in agreement, OAAS regional office staff shall sign Section 4 of the “Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Job Completion Form” indicating final approval of the job, and fax the approved “Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Job Completion Form” to the support coordinator and prior authorization contractor for processing.
- If it is determined that the job was not completed according to the agreement, OAAS regional office staff shall sign Section 4 of the “Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Job Completion Form” indicating disapproval and non-payment for the job, and fax the disapproved “Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Job Completion Form” to the support coordinator to inform the provider and recipient of the job’s declined status.

### **REIMBURSEMENT**

Reimbursement for this service shall require prior and final approval by the OAAS regional office.

Reimbursement shall not be authorized until verification has been received that the job has been completed in accordance with the prior approved agreement.